

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----106289 271945Z /15

O 271835Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1395  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION NEW YORK PRIORITY  
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2037

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, MASS, IS, LE  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

1. JUST PRIOR TO ROY ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS LATE AFTERNOON JULY 27, BEGIN TOOK ME ASIDE TO SPEAK WITH GREAT CONCERN ABOUT BEIRUT SITUATION. SAID HE HAD PROMISED "NOT TO SUPPRISE US", AND WANTED ME TO INFORM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF GOI DECISIONS TAKEN EARLIER IN AFTERNOON.

2. BEGINS SAID HE HAD RECIEVIED NEW DESPERATE APPEALS FROM BOTH CHAMOUN AND BASHIR GEMAYEL. THEY SAID THE CONTINUING SYRIAN BOMBARDMENT WAS THREATENING A REAL MASSACRE. SYRIANS NOW HAD 200 TANKS IN BEIRUT, THE CHRISTIANS LESS THAN 20. GOI HAD DECIDED TO RESPOND BY SENDING MORE AMMUNITION, SOME MOTORS AND OTHER "LIGHT WEAPONS", PLUS LESS THAN 12 "OLD OBSOLETE SUPER SHERMAN TANKS." (BEGIN TOOK SOME PAINS TO ASSURE ME THAT THE TANKS HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. - THEY WERE "OLD PIECES OF JUNK WE BOUGHT ON THE OPEN MARKET SECOND HAND AND  
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HAVE REHABILITATED.")

3. BEGIN SAID THAT AS A CONCOMITTANT OF THIS SUPPORT, THE GOI WAS INSISTING THAT THE CHRISTIANS CEASE THEIR SNIPING AND OTHER PROVO-CATIVE HARASSMENT OF THE SYRIANS - AND ABIDE BY A CEASE FIRE. "BY GIVING THEM THIS SUPPORT WE WILL HAVE MORE INFLUENCE TO RESTRAIN THEM", HE SAID.

4. IT WAS CLEAR THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN, BUT I STRESSED  
HOW PROVOCATIVE THIS SHIPMENT COULD BE - LEADING ONLY TO HEAVIER  
SYRIAN BOMBARDMENT AND MORE ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE.  
BEGIN INSISTED THE GOI WOULD WORK ON "THEIR FRIENDS" FOR  
RESTRAINT AND AN EFFECTIVE CEASE FIRE, AND URGED THAT WE DO THE  
SAME WITH THE SYRIANS. I SAID WE HAD BEEN DOING JUST THAT AND  
WOULD CONTINUE. BUT, I SAID, I HOPE YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING  
POSSIBLE TO REIN IN YOUR FRIENDS. HE SAID HE WOULD.  
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CHRISTIANS, ARMS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CAT-B, COMBAT OPERATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JERUSA02037  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1871914  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS  
**TAGS:** MILI, PEPR, MASS, IS, LE, US, (BEGIN, MENACHEM), (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR),  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014